



Vanipedia FAQ's

Vanipedia and Wiki

What is the main difference between Vanipedia and Wikipedia?

- Vanipedia has only Srila Prabhupada's teachings as content, whereas Wikipedia draws content from varieties of sources. Wikipedia aspires to present the sum and substance of all human knowledge; Vanipedia aspires to present the essence of all Vedic knowledge.

Can everyone edit in Vanipedia as they can in Wikipedia?

- No they cannot. Only trusted users are allowed to edit.

Why have you decided to use the wiki software?

- Wiki facilitates collaboration very nicely, it is open source, it has many developers dedicated to its improvement, and people have become very familiar with it.

Vanipedia and Vedabase

What are the differences and similarities between Vanipedia and the Vedabase?

- The difference is that in Vaniquotes all of the subjects will be fully researched and placed in their natural categories and subcategories, whereas Vedabase only offers the facility to do so but doesn't do it. Vanipedia takes research and education to the next step.
- The similarity is that Vanisource will be researchable, just as Vedabase is.

Would Vanipedia be redundant if I already have Vedabase and the Prabhupada mp3 library?

- It depends on how much you like to understand the depth and breadth of the subjects that Srila Prabhupada addresses. Vanipedia provides a framework which facilitates penetration into the texts, thereby saving you hours of 'footwork' by having the mapping and basic topical research already done.

Using the site

What are the benefits of using Vanipedia?

- Vanipedia's organization, along with its easy search and navigation features, make it quick and easy to research Srila Prabhupada's words on a targeted topic or set of topics.
- Vaniquotes compiles pages from a full range of sources and approaches Srila Prabhupada's teachings from many angles of vision, thereby facilitating comprehensive study, deeper penetration and thorough understanding.
- Source links and cross-referencing ensure that nothing is left out of context.
- Vanipedia's thematic approach aids in the integration and assimilation of material, thus hastening and solidifying learning.
- The Vanipedia project operates on a collaborative model of participation. Users of the site are encouraged to give feedback and assist with developing content.

Do I need to create an account to use the site?

- No. The site is open for everyone to browse on any page. Accounts are opened only for the devotees who are compiling or building the site.

Shouldn't we just read Srila Prabhupada's books and listen to lectures?

- Vanipedia is not meant to replace all other forms of hearing and study. Its purpose is to encourage and facilitate scrutinizing study of Srila Prabhupada's teachings.
- Vanipedia also invites personal research, service engagement and devotee association all in one place—an opportunity for a unique experience in systematic study.
- Vanipedia provides an effective complement to reading and listening.

Development and Participation

Who decides what goes into Vanipedia?

- Any devotee may come forward to contribute to the site.
- There is no limit as to what topics or expressions may be researched from our source material (Srila Prabhupada's books, letters, lectures and conversations).
- We welcome devotees to utilize the Vanipedia platform to pursue research of their own choosing and contribute the resulting pages, articles, and so forth. More contributors means more angles of vision and a richer resource for everyone.

I'd like to contribute to the project, but I don't want to spend all my time compiling.

- You can devote as much time to your participation as you wish. If you have a particular area of interest that you'd like to develop, you can focus on that.
- Compiling, while technically simple, can be an inspiring as well as educational experience. Many devotees have expressed exceptional appreciation for this engagement.
- There are also other aspects to the project which might be more suited to your own talents—communication and promotion, for example, or technical development and maintenance.

Into the future

How long will it take for Vanipedia to be finished?

- It's difficult to say. We hope that over the next 7 years we can finish the most substantial parts of the project. It could take longer, or, depending on who comes forward to assist, it could go more quickly.
- On 4 October 2015 the world will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Srila Prabhupada's setting foot on Western shores, and on 14 November 2027 we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Srila Prabhupada leaving his mortal body to return to the spiritual world. Vanipedia plans to offer substantial service during these 12 years of celebration to show without a doubt that Srila Prabhupada lives forever in his vani and is able to continuously attract, inspire, and guide people in Krishna consciousness.

Whom do I contact about getting involved in the project?

- Write to us at vaniseva@pamho.net and let us know your interest and desire for service!